

From: Kelvin Van Kooten [kelvinvk@kdsi.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2003 11:00
To: adoptionregs@state.gov
Subject: Hague Regulations
U.S. Department of State

I am writing as a very concerned citizen about the current proposed regulations to the Hague Treaty. This was written to protect the children and families involved in intercountry adoptions, which is needed. However, it has been brought to our attention that implementation of the proposed budget, audit, insurance and risk assessment regulations could prohibit many small agencies from working in Hague countries. It is understandable that you would want to ensure ethical practices but if these regulations impose requirements that are cost prohibitive and unrealistic, many small agencies that try to make international adoption affordable would be forced to close. Many are concerned that these proposed regulations will have an adverse effect on international adoption. By forcing small agencies to close, the availability of services to prospective adoptive families will be limited and the cost of adoption will be increased beyond the reach of many.

I urge you to take the time to change these regulations so that small agencies are NOT forced to close and limit the possibility of international adoption to many. Children's lives are precious and homes for those abandoned and orphaned children are needed here in the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathy and Kelvin Van Kooten

12/07/03